

REMARKS

1. Response to Restriction Requirement

In the Office Action dated March 19, 2007, the Examiner required restriction of the claims of the above-identified application to one of the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention under 35 U.S.C. §121:

- | | |
|-----------|------------------------|
| Species A | Claim 1; |
| Species B | Claims 2-8 and 11; and |
| Species C | Claims 9 and 10 |

In response to the restriction requirement, applicant elects Species A, claim 1, for further prosecution. This election is made without traverse.

2. Claim Amendments

In addition, with this response applicant has amended claim 1, canceled claims 2-11 drawn to the non-elected species, and has added new claims 12-25.

Claim 1 has been amended to specify that the step of agitating the bodies of meat takes place in an agitator, which is clearly supported by the specification on page 6, lines 14-24.

In addition, new claims 12-23 depend directly from claim 1 and include limitations previously present in now canceled claims 2-11, and are therefore supported by the specification.

Further, new claims 24 and 25 are independent claims similar in scope to original claim 1, with the sole difference being the range of temperature being claimed is 43°F to 60°F in claim 24, and at least 45°F, instead of 45°F to 60°F as in claim 1. Support for the subject matter of new claims 24 and 25 is also found in the specification and in original claims 1, 9 and 11.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, examination of claims 1 and 12-25 on the merits and allowance of the application are believed to be in order and are respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it would help expedite the allowance of this application.

Request for Extension of Time

Applicants request a five-month extension of time from April 19, 2007 to September 19, 2007 in which to respond to the Office Action dated March 19, 2007. Authorization is given to charge payment by a small entity in the amount of \$1885 for the extension fee (\$1115) and the petition for revival of an application fee (\$770) to Deposit Account No. 50-1170. Authorization is also given to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment in connection with this or any future communication to the deposit account.

Authorization is given to charge any fees in connection with this or any other communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1170.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: 7/27/08

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